

Ethnologue: Languages of Senegal

Twenty-sixth edition data

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
ACHPR	African Charter on Human Peoples' Rights (1987)
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
LWC	language of wider communication
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCPRD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Senegal that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 46 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Senegal. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

Primary language name [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. Macrolanguage member languages. *Map*: Map page. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

The “Language Map” (page 26) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 27) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 31) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the

Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Region” (page 39) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Senegal and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 41) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 43) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 44) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 277 unique names are associated with the 46 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 50). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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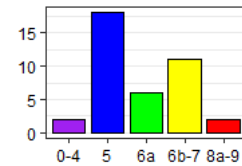
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Country Overview

Name of country	Senegal
Other names	Republic of Senegal
Population	17,196,000 (2021 UNDESA)
Principal language	French
Literacy rate	52% (2017 UNESCO)
International conventions	ACHPR (1982), CDE (1967), CPPDCE (2006), CSICH (2006), ICCPR (1978), UNCRPD (2010), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Barry 1987, Bendor-Samuel and Hartell 1989, Campbell and King 2011, Hopkins 1995, Institut Géographique International 1977, Lopis 1980, Sapir 1971, Williams 1993

Language counts

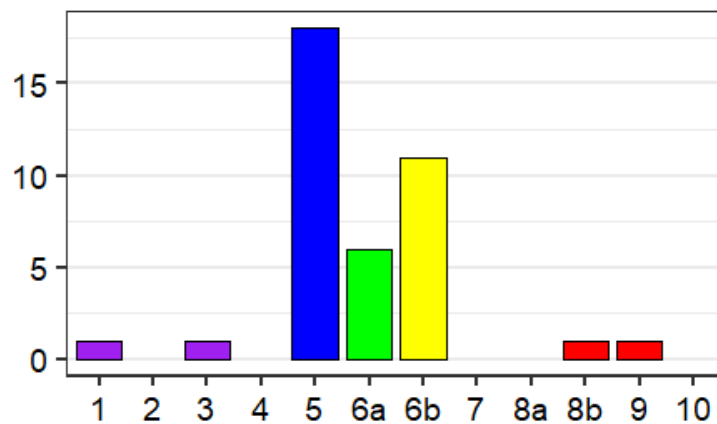
The number of established languages listed for Senegal is 39. All are living languages. Of these, 31 are indigenous and 8 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional, 18 are developing, 6 are vigorous, 11 are in trouble, and 2 are dying. Also listed are 6 unestablished languages and 1 macrolanguage.



See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Senegal with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 31) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Senegal. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Senegal and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Senegal by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 27) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

Table 1: Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	4	10.3	10.3%	13,308,000	81.60347	81.60347%
100,000 to 999,999	9	23.1	33.3%	2,476,000	15.18261	96.78608%
10,000 to 99,999	18	46.2	79.5%	495,600	3.03898	99.82506%
1,000 to 9,999	6	15.4	94.9%	28,030	0.17188	99.99693%
100 to 999	1	2.6	97.4%	500	0.00307	100.00000%
0	1	2.6	100.0%		0.00000	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	39	100.0		16,308,130	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Senegal by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 31) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Senegal. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers			Mean	Median
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative		
1	1	2.6	2.6%	100,000	0.6132	0.6132%	100,000	100,000
3	1	2.6	5.1%	5,868,000	35.9821	36.5952%	5,868,000	5,868,000
5	18	46.2	51.3%	9,665,210	59.2662	95.8615%	536,956	115,350
6a	6	15.4	66.7%	426,900	2.6177	98.4792%	71,150	20,000
6b	11	28.2	94.9%	247,520	1.5178	99.9969%	22,502	12,100
8b	1	2.6	97.4%	500	0.0031	100.0000%	500	500
9	1	2.6	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	39	100.0		16,308,130	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 5 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Afro-Asiatic	1	2.6	196,000	1.2	196,000	196,000
Creole	1	2.6	10,000	0.1	10,000	10,000
Indo-European	1	2.6	100,000	0.6	100,000	100,000
Mixed language	1	2.6		0.0		
Niger-Congo	35	89.7	16,002,130	98.1	457,204	25,400
<i>Totals</i>	39	100.0	16,308,130	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Levantine [apc]. *Users*: 88,300 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Mexico. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Martinique, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Qatar (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Saudi Arabia (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yemen.

Badyara [pbp] (Badian, Badjara, Badjaranké, Bajara, Bigola, Gola, Kanjad, Pajade, Pajadinca, Pajadinka). *Users*: 2,540 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Kolda region: 1 village west of Koulountou river; Tambacounda region: east of the river. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Eastern Senegal-Guinea, Tenda. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Mandinka [mnk]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 26:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,510. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Guinea, Guinea-Bissau (Kanjad).

Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz] (Bagnoun, Bainuk, Banhum, Banyuk, Banyum, Banyun, Banyung, Elomay, Elunay, Guñuun Ñuñ). *Users*: 30,000 (2013). *Location*: Sédhiou and Ziguinchor regions: Niamone area, Bangaga, Diamatou, Diengue, Dierena, Kanjumbay, Kassankil, and Tobor villages; Dakar; Kaolack, Kolda, and Tambacounda regions. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Eastern Senegal-Guinea, Banyun. *Dialects*: Gujaaxet, Gunyamoolo. Dialects mutually intelligible. Reportedly similar to Kobiana [kcj] and Kasanga [ccj] of Guinea-Bissau. More closely related to Tenda languages of eastern Senegal than to neighboring Diola-Fogny [dyo] and Balanta [bjt]. Gunyuño [bab] in Guinea-Bissau is distinct. *Lg Use*: All also use Mandinka [mnk]. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Some also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2003. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 26:2.

Bainouk-Samik [bcb]. *Users*: 1,850 (2006 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Casamance river south side, mainly Samik area and villages north and east, 20 km east of Ziguinchor. *Status*: 6b

(Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Eastern Senegal-Guinea, Banyun. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use French [*fra*], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Some also use Wolof [*wol*], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 26:3.

Balanta-Ganja [bjt] (Alante, Balanda, Balant, Balante, Ballante, Belante, Brassa, Bulanda, Fjaa, Fraase). *Users*: 116,000 (2017). *Location*: Sédhiou region: north of the Casamance river between Sindina and Sédhiou, south of the river between Mangakounda Goudomp and Tanaff, and south to the Guinea-Bissau border. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 979 of 21 October). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Balant-Ganja. *Dialects*: Fganja (Ganja), Fjaalib (Blip). Minor differences between the 2 dialects. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Most also use Mandinka [*mnk*]. Some also use Wolof [*wol*], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. A few also use French [*fra*], particularly those who have attended school. Also use Mandjak [*mfv*]. Also use Mankanya [*knf*]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy classes. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.03). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: A separate language from Balanta-Kentohe [*ble*] in Guinea-Bissau. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 26:4.

Bambara [bam]. Autonym: Bamanankan. *Users*: 84,700 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Tambacounda region: near Mali border. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-East, Northeastern Manding, Bamana. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; passives; tense; causatives; 21 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; tonal (2 tones: high, low). *Lg Use*: Many also use Wolof [*wol*], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Some also use French [*fra*], as the language of education and government. Used as L2 by Soninke [*snk*]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1961–1987. *Writing*: Latin script. N’Ko script, used in Mali. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,181,650 (as L1: 4,179,190; as L2: 10,002,460). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Côte d’Ivoire, Mali (Bamanankan). Unestablished in: Canada (Bamanankan), Gambia, Mauritania, Niger (Bamanankan).

Bandial [bjj] (Banjaal, Banjal, Eegima, Eegimaa, Endungo, Jóola Banjal). Autonym: Gubanjalay, Gújjolaay Eegimaa. *Users*: 15,700 (2017). *Location*: Ziguinchor region: Bignona department, Affiniam, Badiate-Grand, Bandial, Batinier, Brin, Elubalir, Enampor, Essil, Etama, Kamobeul, and Seleky villages on a peninsula bounded by the Casamance river north, the Komobeul Bôlon river west, Ziguinchor-Oussouye road south, and Brin-Nyassia road east. The only village north of the Casamance River is Affiniam. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Jola Central, Gusilay. *Dialects*: Affiniam, Bandial, Elun (Hulon, Kujireray, Kuluunaay). Lexical similarity: 74% with Bandial and Affiniam dialects, 76% with Bandial and Elun. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; noun classes; verb affixes mark person and number of subject and object; aspect; 17 consonants (all with geminate counterparts) and 10 vowels (5 with ATR, 5 without

ATR); non-tonal; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Use*: Home, village. Some young people, all adults. Bandial is still transmitted to children in villages, but its transmission to new generations outside the traditional rural area has fallen drastically (Sagna 2008). Mixed attitudes. Some also use Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)]. Some also use Jola-Kasa [[csk](#)]. Also use French [[fra](#)], with many youth shifting (Sagna 2008). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [[pov](#)]. Also use Wolof [[wol](#)], with many youth shifting (Sagna 2008). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 15%. Literacy rate in L2: 20% in French [[fra](#)]. Literacy mostly directed to adults. Some for primary and secondary schools. Literature. Radio. Grammar. NT: 2014. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: [26:5](#).

Bayot [[bda](#)] (Baiot, Baiote, Bayoot, Bayotte). Autonym: Jola Bayote. *Users*: 24,200 in Senegal (2020). *Location*: Ziguinchor region: villages in Nyassia commune; majority in urban areas and in the larger cities, including Dakar. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Recognized language (2011, Codification). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Bayot. *Dialects*: Essin (Kuhije), Kugere. Minor differences between the main dialects in pronunciation and grammar. Phonology and vocabulary in Senegal are considerably different from the Bayot dialect(s) in Guinea-Bissau. Lexical similarity: 87% between the 2 dialects (Carlton and Rand 1993); 15%–18% with other Jola varieties (most similar), similarity mostly because of borrowings (Segerer 2010). *Lg Use*: L1 by all generations in the Nyassia municipality. Adults who have moved away speak it when possible but their children tend to speak Wolof [[wol](#)]. Close contact with the Nyassia area (2021 SIL). Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Many also use Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)], mostly adults who live in the Nyassia area. Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], mostly the younger generation and also those who have moved away from the language area. Also use French [[fra](#)], used by educated people in official and public situations. Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [[pov](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Beginning literacy classes. Radio. Grammar. Bible portions: 2013. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: [26:6](#). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,200. Also indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau (Jola Bayote).

Casamance Creole [[pov](#)] (Casamancese Creole, Casamançais, Créole, Créole afro-portugais de Casamance, Créole casamançais, Créole de Casamance, Kriyol, Portuguese Creole, Upper Guinea Crioulo). Autonym: Kiriol. *Users*: 30,000 in Senegal, all users. L1 users: 10,000 in Senegal (Biagui and Quint 2013), decreasing. A significant population (2,500) speaks Casamancese Creole in Dakar (Biagui and Quint 2013). L2 users: 20,000 (Biagui and Quint 2013). *Location*: Ziguinchor region: Ziguinchor city and surrounding villages. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Creole, Portuguese based. *Dialects*: None known. Casamance Creole is different from Guinea-Bissau Creole, due to its distinct development path in French West Africa since 1886. However, there is some intelligibility between the two. *Lg Use*: The existence of a context in the Casamance, that is supportive of L2 to L1 transition, is highly unlikely. Most also use French [[fra](#)]. Casamance Creole speakers tend to be the more educated segment of the population. Most also use Wolof [[wol](#)]. Wolof [[wol](#)] now has more L2 speakers than any other language in the Casamance region. Used as L2 by Bandial [[bqj](#)], Bayot [[bda](#)], Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)], Jola-Kasa [[csk](#)], Mandinka [[mnk](#)], Mankanya [[knf](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Literature.

Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1999. There has been some resistance to wolofization from the Casamance secessionists' movement, who want to revive Casamance Creole [pov] as the LWC for the Casamance (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Genesis of continental Portuguese-based Creole occurred in a fort founded on the mouth of the Cacheu River in 1645, and from there spread throughout Portuguese Guinea. The Casamance region of Portuguese Guinea was traded from Portugal to France in 1886, creating an independent development path for the Portuguese-based Creole spoken in that new region in French West Africa. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,892,300 (as L1: 344,300; as L2: 1,548,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau (Guinea-Bissau Creole). Also established in: Portugal (Guinea-Bissau Creole). Unestablished in: Gambia (Guinea-Bissau Creole), Netherlands (Guinea-Bissau Creole).

Ejamat [eja] (Ediamat, Feloup, Felup, Felupe, Floup, Flup, Fulup). Autonym: Djola-Felupe. *Users*: 2,230 in Senegal (2006 SIL). *Location*: Ziguinchor region: a few villages south of Oussouye, including Kahem, Efo, Youtou. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Jola Central, Her-Ejamat. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Jola-Kasa [csk]. *Lg Dev*: Videos. Bible portions: 2013. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Distinct from other Jola varieties. *Map*: 26:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,430. Also indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau (Jola-Felupe).

French [fra] (Français). Autonym: français. *Users*: 4,640,000 in Senegal, all users. L1 users: 100,000 in Senegal (Diouf et al 2017). L2 users: 4,540,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Use*: Education, governmental operations, industry, and business with international relations. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in all tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

Fulah [ful]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 36,854,740. *DLS*: . *Other*: Includes: Adamawa Fulfulde [fub] (Cameroon), Bagirmi Fulfulde [fui] (Chad), Borgu Fulfulde [fue] (Benin), Central-Eastern Niger Fulfulde [fuq] (Niger), Maasina Fulfulde [ffm] (Mali), Nigerian Fulfulde [fuv] (Nigeria), Pulaar [fuc], Pular [fuf] (Guinea), Western Niger Fulfulde

[fuh] (Niger). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 36,854,740.

Gusilay [gsl] (Gusiilay, Gusilaay, Kusiilaay, Kusilay). Autonym: Gusiilaay. *Users*: 21,800 (2017). *Location*: Ziguinchor region: Tionk Essil village, between Tendouck and Mlomp-North.

Status: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Jola Central, Gusilay. *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Also use Mandinka [mnk]. Also use Pulaar [fuc]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Latin script, used since 2013. *Map*: 26:9.

Hassaniyya [mey] (Hasaniya, Hasanya, Hassani, Hassaniya, Klem El Bithan). *Users*: 196,000 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Matam and Saint-Louis regions. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). Recognized language (2005, Decree No.980 of 21 October). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government. Used as L2 by Zenaga [zen]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script, in development. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,189,980. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Algeria (Hassaniyya Arabic), Mali (Hasanya Arabic), Mauritania, Western Sahara (Hassaniyya Arabic). Also established in: Morocco (Hassaniyya Arabic), Niger (Hassaniyya Arabic). Unestablished in: Gambia, Libya (Hassaniyya Arabic), United States.

Jalunga [yal] (Dialonké, Djallonke, Dyalonke, Jalonké, Jalunga xuwiina', Jalungas, Yalunka, Yalunke). Autonym: Jalunga xuwiina'. *Users*: 13,300 in Senegal (2017), increasing. *Location*: Kédougou region: intersection of Mali, Guinea, and Senegal borders. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Susu-Yalunka. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible: 2009. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 26:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 180,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Guinea (Yalunka), Mali, Sierra Leone (Yalunka).

Jola-Fonyi [dyo] (Diola, Diola-Fogny, Dyola, Jola, Jola-Fogny, Joola-Fogny, Jóola, Kujamataak, Kújoola, Kújoolaak kati Kúfooñaak, Kújoolaay, Yola). Autonym: Jóola fóoni. *Users*: 340,000 in Senegal. 243,000 Fonyi, 96,700 Buluf. 34,000 monolinguals. *Location*: Sédhiou region: Casamance river area north of Senegal-Gambia border; Ziguinchor region: Bignona area and east and southeast of Ziguinchor town. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Jola Central, Jola-Fonyi. *Dialects*: Buluf, Kombo, Kalounaye, Narang. Jola-Fonyi is the largest and most widely understood Jola variety. Lexical similarity: 68% with Jola-Kasa [csk]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains, oral and written use in administration, informal use in

education. Oral use in commerce, traditional religion, some use in other religious services. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Also use Mandinka [mnk]. Used as L2 by Bandial [bjj], Bayot [bda], Gusilay [gsl], Karon [krx], Kuwaataay [cwt], Mankanya [knf], Mlomp [mlo], Pulaar [fuc]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. Experimental pilot classes since 2002. Buluf dialect seems to have many lexical items different from Fonyi, but Buluf speakers are willing to learn to read Fonyi. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2012. *DLS*: Ascending (0.21). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Distinct from Jula [dyu] (Dioula, Dyoula, Dyula) of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire. Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 26:11. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 475,000. Also indigenous in: Gambia.

Jola-Kasa [csk] (Bácuki, Casa, Diola-Kasa, Jóola-Kasa, kújoolowaay-kaasa). Autonym: Jóola Kaasa. *Users*: 45,100 (2007), increasing. *Location*: Ziguinchor region: Bignona and Oussouye departments at Casamance river mouth; Hitou and Niamoun villages north of Casamance river. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Jola Central, Jola-Kasa. *Dialects*: Ayun, Esulalu (Esuulaalur, Mlomp South, Oussouye), Fluvial, Huluf, Sele, Bliss (Niomoun). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Used as L2 by Bandial [bjj], Ejamat [eja], Kuwaataay [cwt]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 5%. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2008. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 26:12.

Kabuverdianu [kea]. Autonym: Kabuverdianu, Kriol. *Users*: 39,000 in Senegal (2015 Instituto de Apoió ao Emigrante). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Creole, Portuguese based. *Lg Use*: Most also use French [fra]. Most also use Wolof [wol]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2004–2013. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,195,500 (as L1: 1,181,500; as L2: 14,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Cape Verde Islands. Also established in: Portugal, São Tomé e Príncipe, United States. Unestablished in: Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Gabon, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

Karon [krx] (Jola-Karone, Kaloon, Karone, Karoninka, Kouloonaay, Kulonay). Autonym: Kuloonaay. *Users*: 11,600 in Senegal (2017), increasing. A few hundred elderly monolinguals. *Location*: Ziguinchor region: Bignona department, Kafountine area and north; Kalisseye inlet to Casamance river, to Gambian border, east to Dioloulou; Karon islands. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Karon-Mlomp. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 64% with Mlomp [mlo], the most similar (Jola) language. *Lg Use*: Home, market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Many also use

Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)]. Also use Mandinka [[mnk](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Grammar. Bible portions: 2016–2019. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Strong desire to develop the language and preserve the culture. *Map*: 26:13. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,600. Also established in: Gambia.

Kerak [hhr] (Her, Keerak, Keeraku). *Users*: 18,200 (2017). *Location*: Ziguinchor region: Kabrousse village area southwest near Guinea-Bissau border. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Jola Central, Her-Ejamat. *Dialects*: None known. Distinct from other Jola varieties. Lexical similarity: 70% with Kerak and Ejamat [[eja](#)], more recent estimates are closer to 90%. Both languages are mutually intelligible. *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 26:14.

Kobiana [kcj] (Buy, Cobiana, Guboy, Uboi). *Users*: 500 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Ziguinchor region: Gambian border area. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Eastern Senegal-Guinea, Nun. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Mandjak [[mfv](#)] (Dimmendaal and Voeltz 2007). *Other*: Non-indigenous. Traditional religion. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,000. Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau.

Krio [kri]. Autonym: Krio. *Users*: 7,380 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Creole, English based, Atlantic, Krio. *Lg Use*: Most also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Many also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2013. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,242,250 (as L1: 821,430; as L2: 7,420,820). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Sierra Leone. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Gambia, Guinea, United Kingdom, United States.

Kuwaataay [cwt] (Kwatay). Autonym: Kuwaataay. *Users*: 8,710 (2017). *Location*: Ziguinchor region: Boukot-Diola, Bouyouye, Diembering, and Nyikine coastal villages south of Casamance river mouth; Dakar. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Kwatay. *Dialects*: None known. Distinct from other Jola varieties. Lexical similarity: 40% with most Jola languages. *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)]. Also use Jola-Kasa [[csk](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2000. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 26:15.

Laalaa [cae] (Lala, Lehar, Serer). Autonym: Kelaalaa. *Users*: 17,300 (2019 SIL). *Location*: Tambacounda region: Tambacounda department, Missira district, Nguene and Saal villages;

Thiès region: Tivaouane department, Pambal district. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Cangin. *Dialects*: Yung, Yendane-Terokh. Minor differences between the 2 dialects. 52% intelligibility with Noon [snf]. Lexical similarity: 84% with Noon [snf], 74% with Saafi-Saafi [sav], 68% with Ndut [ndv] and Paloor [fap], 22% with Serer-Sine [srr]. *Type*: SVO; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Children learn Laalaa first. Youth being lost to cities causing decrease in L1 speakers. Shifting to Wolof [wol]. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Used as L2 by Ndut [ndv]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 60% in French [fra], 35% in Wolof [wol]. Cultural association works on language development. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Often identified by themselves and by the majority population as Serer, a widely used name for a cultural and linguistic group which includes the Serer-Sine language and the 5 Cangin languages. Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 26:16.

Mandinka [mnk] (Mande, Manding, Mandingo, Mandingue, Mandingue, Socé). Autonym: Mandi'nka kango. *Users*: 888,000 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Kolda region: Oussadou area on southeast border with Guinea; Sédhiou region: Casamance river north to The Gambia; Ziguinchor region: south of Casamance river. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 982 of 21 October). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-West. A member of macrolanguage Mandingo [man] (Guinea). *Dialects*: None known. Mandinka, Eastern Maninkakan [emk], and Western Maninkakan [mlq] are separate languages. Lexical similarity: 79% with Kalanke, 75% with Jahanka [jad], 70% with Xaasongaxango [kao], 59% with Western Maninkakan [mlq], 53% with Eastern Maninkakan [emk], 48% with Bambara [bam]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Used as L2 by Badyara [pbp], Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz], Balanta-Ganja [bjt], Gusilay [gsl], Jola-Fonyi [dyo], Karon [krx], Mlomp [mlo]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 2013. *DLS*: Ascending (0.16). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Maps*: 26:17, 26:17. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,114,000. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Gambia, Guinea-Bissau.

Mandjak [mfv] (Kanyop, Majak, Mandjaque, Mandyak, Manjaaku, Manjaca, Manjack, Manjaco, Manjak, Manjaku, Ndjak). Autonym: Manjaku. *Users*: 146,000 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Sédhiou region: Soukoutoto southeast to Guinea border, Casamance river, both sides; Ziguinchor region: from capitol southeast to Guinea border. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 983 of 21 October). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Manjaku-Papel. *Dialects*: Bok (Kabok, Sara, Teixeira Pinto, Tsaam, Ubok), Likes-Utsia (Baraa, Kalkus), Cur (Churo), Lund (Ulund), Yu (Pecixe). *Type*: Nominal prefixes, 2 plural forms; complex auxiliary verbs and aspect particles; verb suffixes;

relative clauses functioning as adjectives, with nominal markers at beginning and end; pitch distinction on verbal and nominal forms; emphatic markers. *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Used as L2 by Balanta-Ganja [bjt], Kobiana [kcj], Mankanya [knf]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. Grammar. NT: 2020. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 26:18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 311,400. Also indigenous in: Gambia, Guinea-Bissau.

Maninkakan, Western [mlq] (Malinka, Malinké, Maninga, Maninka, Maninka-Western, Maninkakan, Maninkaxan, Western Malinke). *Users*: 1,630,000 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Kédougou and Tambacounda regions: north of Gambia river; Kolda region: near easternmost point of The Gambia. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-West. A member of macrolanguage Mandingo [man] (Guinea). *Dialect*: Jahanka (Diakhanke, Diakhonké, Diakkanke, Jahanque, Jahonque, Jaxanka, Kyakanke). Lexical similarity: 59% with Mandinka [mnk]. *Lg Use*: Most domains. Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. Bible portions: 1997–2003. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 26:32. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,068,000. Also indigenous in: Gambia, Mali.

Mankanya [knf] (Mancagne, Mancang, Mankaañ, Mankanha, Uhula). Autonym: Uhula. *Users*: 41,100 in Senegal (2017), increasing. 3,000 monolinguals. *Location*: Sédhiou region: Sédhiou city, Casamance river area; between Casamance and Soungrougrou rivers; Ziguinchor region: south along Casamance river, east and west of Ziguinchor city. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 984 of 21 October). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Manjaku-Papel. *Dialects*: Uhula, Uwoh. *Lg Use*: Home. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Also use Mandjak [mfv]. Used as L2 by Balanta-Ganja [bjt]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 6%. Literacy rate in L2: 80% in French [fra]. Active cultural association involved in literacy. Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 26:19. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 85,700. Also indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau. Unestablished in: Gambia.

Ménik [tnr] (Bande, Basari du Bandemba, Bedik, Budik, Manik, Mūnik, Onik, Tandanke, Tenda, Tendanke). Autonym: Ménik. *Users*: 5,200 (2017). *Location*: Kédougou region: Gambia river headwaters and Guinea border. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 985 of 21 October). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Eastern

Senegal-Guinea, Tenda. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Oniyan [bsc]. *Lg Use*: Home, village, work, church. Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Pulaar [fuc]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%. Dictionary. NT: 2015. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Ménik is the traditional language name. Reportedly a creole with elements from Oniyan [bsc], Peul [fuc], and other languages. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 26:20.

Mlomp [mlo] (Gulompaay, Mlomp North). *Users*: 7,500 (2017). *Location*: Ziguinchor region: Bignona department, Mlomp village on Tendouck to Tiobon road, surrounding villages. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Karon-Mlomp. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 64% with Karon [krx] (most similar), 42% with the next most similar Jola language. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Also use Mandinka [mnk]. Also use Pulaar [fuc]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 26:21.

Moore [mos]. Autonym: Moore. *Users*: 44,800 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Western, Northwest. *Type*: SVO; postpositions; genitives, articles, adjectives, numerals after noun heads; question word final; word order distinguishes subjects, objects; CV, CVC, CVV, CCV; tonal. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1983. *Writing*: Braille script, developed in 2010. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,861,900. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo. Also established in: Côte d'Ivoire, Niger. Unestablished in: Benin, Ghana.

Ndut [ndv] (Ndoute). Autonym: Ndút. *Users*: 52,000 (2017). *Location*: Thiès region: between Thiès town and Atlantic coast. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Cangin. *Dialects*: None known. 32% intelligibility of Paloor [fap]. Lexical similarity: 84% with Paloor [fap]; 68% with Saafi-Saafi [sav], Noon [snf], and Lehar [cae]; 22% with Serer-Sine [srr]. *Type*: SVO; nontonal. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Laalaa [cae]. Also use Saafi-Saafi [sav]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 3%. Active cultural association involved in literacy and literature production. Radio. NT: 2020. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Often identified by themselves and the majority population as Serer, a widely used name for a cultural or linguistic group which includes the Serer-Sine language and the 5 Cangin languages. Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 26:22.

N'Ko [nqo]. *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Senegal. No ethnic community. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Mixed language. *Lg Dev*: N'Ko is both a script

devised in 1949 as a writing system for the Mande languages, and the name of the literary language written in the script. Newspapers. Dictionary. *Writing*: N’Ko script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. A mixture of Mande languages: Bamanankan [bam], Eastern Maninkakan [emk], Jula [dyu], and Mandinka [mnk]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Indigenous in: Guinea. Also established in: Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone. Unestablished in: Mali.

Noon [snf] (Non, None, Serer, Serer-Noon). Autonym: Kinoon. *Users*: 32,900 (2007). *Location*: Thiès region: Thiès town area. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 986 of 21 October). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Cangin. *Dialects*: Padee, Cangin, Saawii. Noon is very different from Serer-Sine [srr]. 68% intelligibility of Lehar [cae]. Lexical similarity: 84% with Lehar [cae], 74% with Safen [sav], 68% with Ndut [ndv] and Paloor [fap], 22% with Serer-Sine [srr]. *Type*: SVO; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Children learn Noon first. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 70% in French [fra], 10% in Wolof [wol]. Grammar. NT: 2012. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Often identified by themselves and the majority population as Serer, which is a widely used name for a cultural or linguistic group which includes the Serer-Sine language and the 5 Cangin languages. Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 26:23.

Oniyan [bsc] (Ayan, Basari, Bassari, Bassari-Tanda, Biyan, Onian, Onëyan, Tenda Basari, Wo). Autonym: Oniyan. *Users*: 18,200 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Kédougou and Tambacounda regions: border areas. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 987 of 21 October). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Eastern Senegal-Guinea, Tenda. *Dialects*: Ane, Kéd, Oxalac. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2011–2016. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Often identified by the majority population as Bassari. Tenda is a cover term for Oniyan [bsc], Badyara [pbb], Wamey [cou], and Ménik [tnr]. High mortality rate. Women intermarry with men from Fulbe and other groups; children become part of the other group. Trading is carried on with the Fulbe. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 26:24. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 31,100. Also indigenous in: Guinea (Bassari). Also established in: Guinea-Bissau (Bassari).

Paloor [fap] (Falor, Palar, Palor, Serer, Siili, Siili-Mantine, Siili-Siili, Waro). Autonym: Paloor. *Users*: 22,000 (Thornell et al 2017), increasing. *Location*: Thiès region: 26 villages north of Blaise Diagne international airport and southwest of Thiès town. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Recognized language (2012, Codification (first draft)). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Cangin. *Dialects*: Kajoor (Kajor), Ba’ol. Minor differences between dialects. Kajoor vocabulary is more influenced by Wolof [wol] and the Ba’ol by the Saafi-Saafi [sav] (Thornell et al 2017). 55% intelligibility of Ndut [ndv], 27% of Saafi-Saafi [sav].

Lexical similarity: 84% with Ndut [ndv], 74% with Saafi-Saafi [sav], 68% with Noon [snf] and Laalaa [cae], 22% with Serer-Sine [srr]. *Type*: SVO; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Home. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Wolof [wol], in interethnic situations but a number also among themselves. Some villages north of the national road have shifted to Wolof (Thornell et al 2017). Many also use Saafi-Saafi [sav] (Thornell et al 2017). Also use French [fra], mainly in official domains (Thornell et al 2017). Used as L2 by Saafi-Saafi [sav]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 30% in French [fra], 10% in Wolof [wol]. Literacy activities. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Often identified by themselves and the majority population as Serer which is a widely used name for a cultural or linguistic group which includes the Serer-Sine language and the 5 Cangin languages. Siili is the Paloor word for Serer. Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 26:25.

Papel [pbo]. Autonym: Oyum. *Users*: 7,500 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Manjaku-Papel. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. NT: 1996. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Traditional religion, Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 156,000. Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau.

Pulaar [fuc] (Peul, Peulh, Pulaar Fulfulde, Pël). Autonym: Pulaar. *Users*: 4,150,000 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Fula, Western. A member of macrolanguage Fulah [ful]. *Dialects*: Toucouleur (Fulbe Jeeri, Haalpulaar, Pulaar, Tokilor, Tukolor, Tukolor), Fulacunda (Fulakunda, Fulkunda). *Lg Use*: Most domains. Used by all. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Some also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Used as L2 by Gusilay [gsl], Ménik [tnr], Mlomp [mlo], Saafi-Saafi [sav], Soninke [snk], Wamey [cou]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%–30%. Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1997. *DLS*: Ascending (0.41). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 26:26. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,912,700. Also indigenous in: Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau (Fula), Mali, Mauritania.

Pular [fuf] (Fouta Dyalon, Fullo Fuuta, Futa Fula, Futa Jallon, Fuuta Jalon). Autonym: Pular. *Users*: 150,000 in Senegal (2006 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Dakar; Sédhiou region: Casamance area. Seasonal migrants from Guinea and elsewhere. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Fula, West Central. *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2011. *Writing*: Adlam script, used since 1989. Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Many from Guinea settled or work seasonally in Casamance, eastern Senegal, and Dakar. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,846,200. Indigenous in: Guinea, Guinea-Bissau (Futa Fula), Mali. Also

established in: Sierra Leone.

Saafi-Saafi [sav] (Saafen, Saafi, Safen, Safi, Safi-Safi, Sereer Saafen, Serer-Safen, Serere-Saafen). Autonym: Saafi-Saafi. *Users*: 200,000 (2012), increasing. *Location*: Thiès region: between Nguekikh, Popenguine, and Thiès; Dakar region: airport area; 60 villages: 43 are over 80% Saafi, 8 are under 50%. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 2005-989 of 21 October). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Cangin. *Dialects*: Boukhou, Sebikotane, Sindia, Hasab, Diobass. Dialects named after villages and a zone (Diobass). Lexical similarity: 74% with Noon [snf], Lehar [cae], and Paloor [fap]; 68% with Ndut [ndv]; 22% with Serer-Sine [srr]. *Type*: SVO; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Most domains. Used by all. Children initially monolingual. Positive attitudes. Most also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Paloor [fap]. Also use Pulaar [fuc]. Also use Serer-Sine [srr]. Used as L2 by Ndut [ndv], Paloor [fap]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%. Literacy rate in L2: 40% French [fra], 10% Arabic [arb]. Desire for Saafi-Saafi literature. 85 literacy classes of various types. Literature. Radio. Bible portions: 2020. *DLS*: Emerging (0.12). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Families in Dakar may lose L1; the next generation will no longer consider itself Saafi. Often identified by themselves and the majority population as Serer, which is a widely used name for a cultural or linguistic group which includes the Serer-Sine language and the 5 Cangin languages. Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 26:27.

Serer-Sine [srr] (Seex, Sereer, Serer, Serer-Sin, Serrer, Sine-Saloum, Sine-Sine, Sérère-Sine). Autonym: seereer. *Users*: 1,660,000 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Diourbel, Fatick, Kaffrine, Kaolack, and Thiès regions: Saloum and Sine river valleys; Saint-Louis region: some south of Senegal river, Thile-Boubacar area. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Serer. *Dialects*: Segum, Fadyut-Palmerin, Sine, Dyegueme (Gyegem), Niominka. Niominka and Serer-Sine dialects are mutually inherently intelligible. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Most also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Used as L2 by Saafi-Saafi [sav]. *Lg Dev*: Bible: 2008. *DLS*: Ascending (0.29). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 26:29. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,720,300. Also indigenous in: Gambia.

Soninke [snk] (Sarakole, Sarakolle, Sarakule, Sarakulle, Sarangkolle, Saraxuli, Serahule, Soninkanxanne). Autonym: Sooninkanxanne. *Users*: 340,000 in Senegal (2017), increasing. *Location*: Kolda region: north of Velingara; Matam region: Kanel district; Tambacounda region: Koudi area along Senegal river south bank (Kinxenna dialect). 42 villages, Bakel, Moudéri, Ouaoundé, and Yaféra are principal towns. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Northwestern, Soninke-Bobo, Soninke-Boso, Soninke. *Dialect*: Kinxenna. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic

communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Bamanankan [[bam](#)]. Also use Pulaar [[fuc](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%. Literacy rate in L2: 1%–42%. Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2001–2012. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Kolda region Soninke trace their origins back to the eastern dialect area of Mali (Kinbakka); northeastern Senegal group is part of the western Mali group (Kinxenna). Thus, significant differences exist between dialects of the 2 geographical groups in Senegal. Extensive interaction between Soninke of The Gambia and those of southern Senegal, Kolda region. Kolda region speakers are geographically isolated from those in northeastern Senegal. Muslim. *Maps*: 26:30, 26:30. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,251,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Guinea (Sarakolé), Mali, Mauritania. Also established in: Gambia (Serahule), Guinea-Bissau. Unestablished in: Côte d’Ivoire, United States.

Susu [[sus](#)]. Autonym: Sosoxui. *Users*: 44,800 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Susu-Yalunka. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,433,480. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Guinea, Sierra Leone. Also established in: Guinea-Bissau.

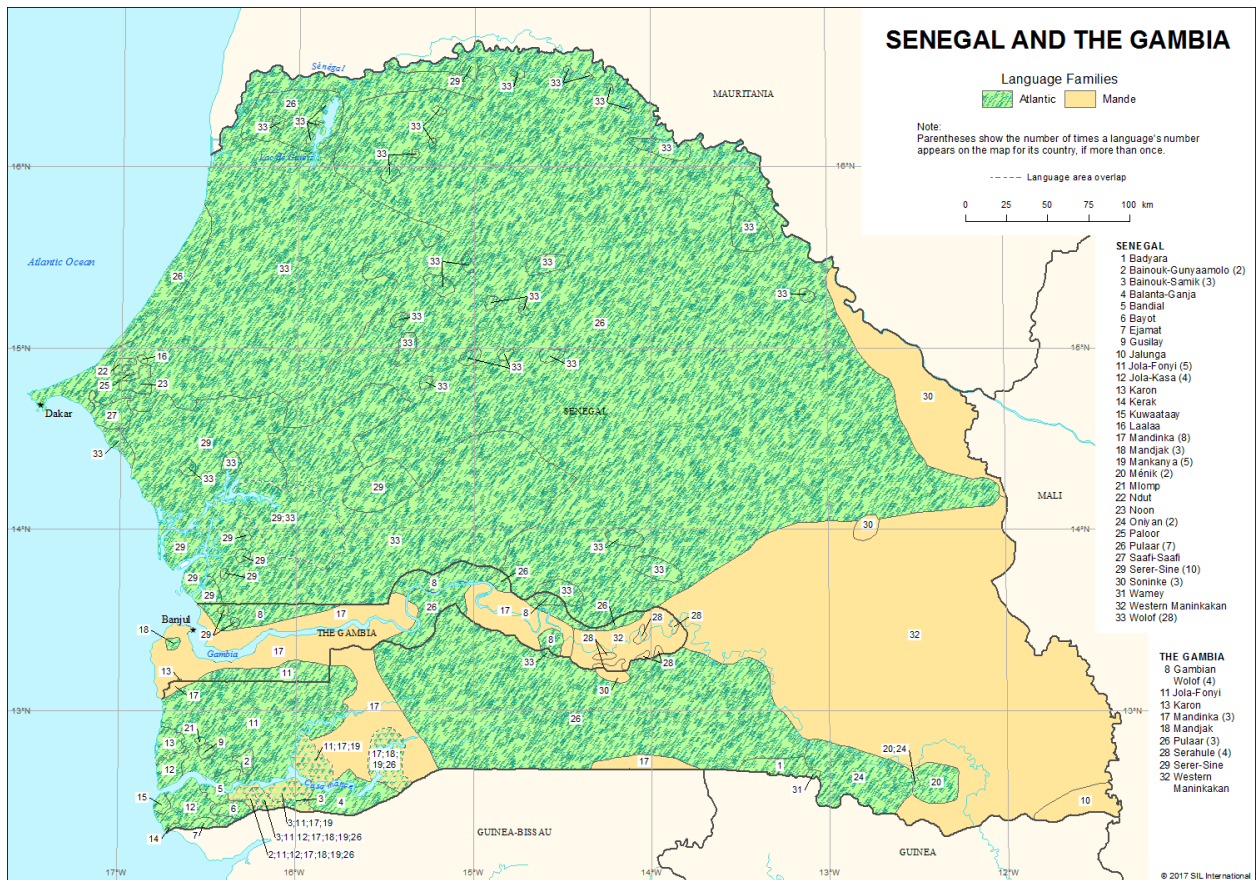
Wamey [[cou](#)] (Conhague, Coniagui, Koniagui, Konyagi, Wamay, Wamei). Autonym: Wameÿ. *Users*: 25,400 in Senegal (2017), decreasing. *Location*: Kédougou region; a few in Tambacounda region; scattered along Guinea border. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Eastern Senegal-Guinea, Tenda. *Lg Use*: Mixed attitudes, from positive among older people to more neutral among the young. Most also use Pulaar [[fuc](#)]. Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2018. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: All other ethnic groups consider Wamey too difficult to learn. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 26:31. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 50,200. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Guinea.

Wolof [[wol](#)] (Ouolof, Volof, Walaf, Waro-Waro, Yalof). *Users*: 12,208,000 in Senegal, all users. L1 users: 5,868,000 in Senegal (2013 census). L2 users: 6,340,000 (2017). Ethnic population: 6,900,000 (2017). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). Wolof has become an LWC through commerce and trade and is the lingua franca in much of the country. The phenomenon of ‘wolofization’ has meant that people from many ethnic groups have adopted Wolof as their L1; most of the Senegalese population can speak and understand Wolof (2015 J. Leclerc). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Wolof. *Dialects*: Baol, Cayor, Dyolof (Djolof, Jolof), Lebou (Lebu), Jander, Urban Wolof (Dakar-Wolof). Urban Wolof speakers have some difficulty understanding the Wolof spoken in rural areas, but the reverse does not pose the same difficulty. Wolof [[wol](#)] is different from Gambian Wolof [[wof](#)]. *Type*:

SVO; prepositions; no noun classes, but class particles; definite article; passives; tense and aspect; 25 consonant and 16 vowel phonemes; non-tonal. *Lg Use*: Youth are shifting to Urban Wolof. All domains. Many also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Used as L2 by Badyara [[pbp](#)], Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [[bcz](#)], Bainouk-Samik [[bcb](#)], Balanta-Ganja [[bjt](#)], Bambara [[bam](#)], Bandial [[bqi](#)], Bayot [[bda](#)], Casamance Creole [[pov](#)], Ejamat [[eja](#)], Gusilay [[gsl](#)], Hassaniyya [[mey](#)], Jalunga [[yal](#)], Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)], Jola-Kasa [[csk](#)], Kabuverdianu [[kea](#)], Karon [[krx](#)], Kerak [[hhr](#)], Krio [[kri](#)], Kuwaataay [[cwt](#)], Laalaa [[cae](#)], Mandinka [[mnk](#)], Mandjak [[mfv](#)], Mankanya [[knf](#)], Ménik [[tnr](#)], Mlomp [[mlo](#)], Ndut [[ndv](#)], Noon [[snf](#)], Oniyan [[bsc](#)], Paloor [[fap](#)], Pulaar [[fuc](#)], Pular [[fuf](#)], Saafi-Saafi [[sav](#)], Serer-Sine [[srr](#)], Soninke [[snk](#)], Wamey [[cou](#)], Western Maninkakan [[mlq](#)], Xasonga [[kao](#)], Zenaga [[zen](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 2%. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1988–2010. *DLS*: Vital (0.61). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, called Ajami. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Muslim. *Maps*: 26:33, 26:33. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,397,200 (as L1: 6,050,920; as L2: 6,346,280). Also indigenous in: Mauritania. Unestablished in: Canada, France, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, United Kingdom, United States.

Xasonga [[kao](#)] (Kasonke, Kasso, Kasson, Kassonke, Khasonke, Xaasonga, Xaasongaxango, Xasongo, Xasonke). Autonym: Xasongo. *Users*: 12,100 in Senegal (2017). *Location*: Tambacounda region. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-West. *Lg Use*: Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Some also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2008. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 714,600. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Mali (Xaasongaxango). Unestablished in: Gambia.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Senegal are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Wolof [[wol](#)] *Users*: 5,868,000 in Senegal (2013 census). 12,208,000 in Senegal, all users. L2 users: 6,340,000 (2017). Ethnic population: 6,900,000 (2017). *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,397,200 (as L1: 6,050,920; as L2: 6,346,280).

Pulaar [[fuc](#)] *Users*: 4,150,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,912,700.

Serer-Sine [[srr](#)] *Users*: 1,660,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,720,300.

Maninkakan, Western [[mlq](#)] *Users*: 1,630,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,068,000.

100,000 to 999,999

Mandinka [[mnk](#)] *Users*: 888,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 982 of 21 October). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,114,000.

Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)] *Users*: 340,000 in Senegal. 243,000 Fonyi, 96,700 Buluf. 34,000 monolinguals. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 475,000.

Soninke [[snk](#)] *Users*: 340,000 in Senegal (2017), increasing. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,251,700.

Saafi-Saafi [[sav](#)] *Users*: 200,000 (2012), increasing. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 2005-989 of 21 October).

Hassaniyya [[mey](#)] *Users*: 196,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). Recognized language (2005, Decree No.980 of 21 October). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,189,980.

Pular [[fuf](#)] *Users*: 150,000 in Senegal (2006 J. Leclerc). *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,846,200.

Mandjak [[mfv](#)] *Users*: 146,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 983 of 21 October). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 311,400.

Balanta-Ganja [bjt] *Users:* 116,000 (2017). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 979 of 21 October).

French [fra] *Users:* 100,000 in Senegal (Diouf et al 2017). 4,640,000 in Senegal, all users. L2 users: 4,540,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

10,000 to 99,999

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 88,300 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Bambara [bam] *Users:* 84,700 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,181,650 (as L1: 4,179,190; as L2: 10,002,460).

Ndut [ndv] *Users:* 52,000 (2017). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Jola-Kasa [csk] *Users:* 45,100 (2007), increasing. *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Moore [mos] *Users:* 44,800 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,861,900.

Susu [sus] *Users:* 44,800 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,433,480.

Mankanya [knf] *Users:* 41,100 in Senegal (2017), increasing. 3,000 monolinguals. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 984 of 21 October). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 85,700.

Kabuverdianu [kea] *Users:* 39,000 in Senegal (2015 Instituto de Apoio ao Emigrante). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,195,500 (as L1: 1,181,500; as L2: 14,000).

Noon [snf] *Users:* 32,900 (2007). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 986 of 21 October).

Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz] *Users:* 30,000 (2013). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened).

Wamey [cou] *Users:* 25,400 in Senegal (2017), decreasing. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 50,200.

Bayot [bda] *Users:* 24,200 in Senegal (2020). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Recognized language (2011, Codification). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,200.

Paloor [fap] *Users:* 22,000 (Thornell et al 2017), increasing. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). Recognized language (2012, Codification (first draft)).

Gusilay [gsl] *Users:* 21,800 (2017). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Kerak [hhr] *Users:* 18,200 (2017). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Oniyan [bsc] *Users:* 18,200 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 987 of 21 October). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 31,100.

Laalaa [cae] *Users:* 17,300 (2019 SIL). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Bandial [bjj] *Users:* 15,700 (2017). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Jalunga [yal] *Users:* 13,300 in Senegal (2017), increasing. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 180,700.

Xasonga [kao] *Users:* 12,100 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 714,600.

Karon [krx] *Users:* 11,600 in Senegal (2017), increasing. A few hundred elderly monolinguals. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,600.

Casamance Creole [pov] *Users:* 10,000 in Senegal (Biagui and Quint 2013), decreasing. A significant population (2,500) speaks Casamance Creole in Dakar (Biagui and Quint 2013). 30,000 in Senegal, all users. L2 users: 20,000 (Biagui and Quint 2013). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,892,300 (as L1: 344,300; as L2: 1,548,000).

1,000 to 9,999

Kuwaataay [cwt] *Users:* 8,710 (2017). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Mlomp [mlo] *Users:* 7,500 (2017). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Papel [pbo] *Users:* 7,500 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 156,000.

Krio [kri] *Users:* 7,380 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,242,250 (as L1: 821,430; as L2: 7,420,820).

Ménik [tnr] *Users:* 5,200 (2017). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 985 of 21 October).

Badyara [pbp] *Users:* 2,540 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 20,510.

Ejamat [eja] *Users:* 2,230 in Senegal (2006 SIL). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,430.

Bainouk-Samik [bcb] *Users:* 1,850 (2006 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

100 to 999

Kobiana [kcj] *Users:* 500 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,000.

0

N'Ko [nqo] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Senegal. Ethnic population: No ethnic community.
Status: 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Senegal are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

French [[fra](#)] *Users*: 4,640,000 in Senegal, all users. L1 users: 100,000 in Senegal (Diouf et al 2017). L2 users: 4,540,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status*: Statutory national language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Lg Use*: Education, governmental operations, industry, and business with international relations. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

3 (Wider communication)

Wolof [[wol](#)] *Users*: 12,208,000 in Senegal, all users. L1 users: 5,868,000 in Senegal (2013 census). L2 users: 6,340,000 (2017). Ethnic population: 6,900,000 (2017). *Status*: Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). Wolof has become an LWC through commerce and trade and is the lingua franca in much of the country. The phenomenon of ‘wolofization’ has meant that people from many ethnic groups have adopted Wolof as their L1; most of the Senegalese population can speak and understand Wolof (2015 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use*: Youth are shifting to Urban Wolof. All domains. Many also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Used as L2 by Badyara [[pbp](#)], Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [[bcz](#)], Bainouk-Samik [[bcb](#)], Balanta-Ganja [[bjt](#)], Bambara [[bam](#)], Bandial [[bjj](#)], Bayot [[bda](#)], Casamance Creole [[pov](#)], Ejamat [[eja](#)], Gusilay [[gsl](#)], Hassaniyya [[mey](#)], Jalunga [[yal](#)], Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)], Jola-Kasa [[csk](#)], Kabuverdianu [[kea](#)], Karon [[krx](#)], Kerak [[hhr](#)], Krio [[kri](#)], Kuwaataay [[cwt](#)], Laalaa [[cae](#)], Mandinka [[mnk](#)], Mandjak [[mfv](#)], Mankanya [[knf](#)], Ménik [[tnr](#)], Mlomp [[mlo](#)], Ndut [[ndv](#)], Noon [[snf](#)], Oniyan [[bsc](#)], Paloor [[fap](#)], Pulaar [[fuc](#)], Pular [[fuf](#)], Saafi-Saafi [[sav](#)], Serer-Sine [[srr](#)], Soninke [[snk](#)], Wamey [[cou](#)], Western Maninkakan [[mlq](#)], Xasonga [[kao](#)], Zenaga [[zen](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1988–2010. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, called Ajami. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,397,200 (as L1: 6,050,920; as L2: 6,346,280).

5 (Developing)

Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)] *Users*: 340,000 in Senegal. 243,000 Fonyi, 96,700 Buluf. 34,000 monolinguals. *Status*: Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains, oral and written use in administration, informal use in education. Oral use in commerce, traditional religion, some use in other religious services. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many

also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Also use Mandinka [mnk]. Used as L2 by Bandial [bjj], Bayot [bda], Gusilay [gsl], Karon [krx], Kuwaataay [cwt], Mankanya [knf], Mlomp [mlo], Pulaar [fuc]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2012. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 475,000.

Jola-Kasa [csk] *Users*: 45,100 (2007), increasing. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Used as L2 by Bandial [bjj], Ejamat [eja], Kuwaataay [cwt]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2008. *Writing*: Latin script.

Kuwaataay [cwt] *Users*: 8,710 (2017). *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Also use Jola-Kasa [csk]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2000. *Writing*: Latin script.

Laalaa [cae] *Users*: 17,300 (2019 SIL). *Lg Use*: Children learn Laalaa first. Youth being lost to cities causing decrease in L1 speakers. Shifting to Wolof [wol]. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Used as L2 by Ndut [ndv]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Latin script.

Mandinka [mnk] *Users*: 888,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 982 of 21 October). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Used as L2 by Badyara [pbp], Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz], Balanta-Ganja [bjt], Gusilay [gsl], Jola-Fonyi [dyo], Karon [krx], Mlomp [mlo]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 2013. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,114,000.

Mandjak [mfv] *Users*: 146,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 983 of 21 October). *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Used as L2 by Balanta-Ganja [bjt], Kobiana [kcj], Mankanya [knf]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 311,400.

- Maninkakan, Western** [mlq] *Users:* 1,630,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Lg Use:* Most domains. Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *Lg Dev:* Radio. Grammar. Bible portions: 1997–2003. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,068,000.
- Mankanya** [knf] *Users:* 41,100 in Senegal (2017), increasing. 3,000 monolinguals. *Status:* Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 984 of 21 October). *Lg Use:* Home. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Also use Mandjak [mfv]. Used as L2 by Balanta-Ganja [bjt]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 85,700.
- Ménik** [tnr] *Users:* 5,200 (2017). *Status:* Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 985 of 21 October). *Lg Use:* Home, village, work, church. Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Pulaar [fuc]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. NT: 2015. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Ndut** [ndv] *Users:* 52,000 (2017). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Laalaa [cae]. Also use Saafi-Saafi [sav]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. NT: 2020. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Noon** [snf] *Users:* 32,900 (2007). *Status:* Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 986 of 21 October). *Lg Use:* Children learn Noon first. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 2012. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Oniyan** [bsc] *Users:* 18,200 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 987 of 21 October). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2011–2016. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 31,100.
- Pulaar** [fuc] *Users:* 4,150,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status:* Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Lg Use:* Most domains. Used by all. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Some also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Used as L2 by Gusilay [gsl], Ménik [tnr], Mlomp [mlo], Saafi-Saafi [sav],

Soninke [snk], Wamey [cou]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1997. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,912,700.

Pular [fuf] *Users*: 150,000 in Senegal (2006 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government. *Writing*: Adlam script, used since 1989. Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,846,200.

Saafi-Saafi [sav] *Users*: 200,000 (2012), increasing. *Status*: Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 2005-989 of 21 October). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Most domains. Used by all. Children initially monolingual. Positive attitudes. Most also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Paloor [fap]. Also use Pulaar [fuc]. Also use Serer-Sine [srr]. Used as L2 by Ndut [ndv], Paloor [fap]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Bible portions: 2020. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script.

Serer-Sine [srr] *Users*: 1,660,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Most also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Used as L2 by Saafi-Saafi [sav]. *Lg Dev*: Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,720,300.

5 (Dispersed)

Bambara [bam] *Users*: 84,700 in Senegal (2017). *Lg Use*: Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government. Used as L2 by Soninke [snk]. *Writing*: Latin script. N’Ko script, used in Mali. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,181,650 (as L1: 4,179,190; as L2: 10,002,460).

Hassaniyya [mey] *Users*: 196,000 in Senegal (2017). *Status*: Recognized language (2005, Decree No.980 of 21 October). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government. Used as L2 by Zenaga [zen]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script, in development. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,189,980.

6a (Vigorous)

Gusilay [gsl] *Users*: 21,800 (2017). *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use

Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)]. Also use Mandinka [[mnk](#)]. Also use Pulaar [[fuc](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 2013.

Jalunga [[yal](#)] *Users*: 13,300 in Senegal (2017), increasing. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 180,700.

Karon [[krx](#)] *Users*: 11,600 in Senegal (2017), increasing. A few hundred elderly monolinguals. *Lg Use*: Home, market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Also use Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)]. Also use Mandinka [[mnk](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Grammar. Bible portions: 2016–2019. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,600.

Kerak [[hhr](#)] *Users*: 18,200 (2017). *Lg Use*: Those who have moved to larger urban areas no longer pass the language to their children (2013 SIL). Used by all. Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *Writing*: Unwritten.

Paloor [[fap](#)] *Users*: 22,000 (Thornell et al 2017), increasing. *Status*: Recognized language (2012, Codification (first draft)). *Lg Use*: Home. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Wolof [[wol](#)], in interethnic situations but a number also among themselves. Some villages north of the national road have shifted to Wolof (Thornell et al 2017). Many also use Saafi-Saafi [[sav](#)] (Thornell et al 2017). Also use French [[fra](#)], mainly in official domains (Thornell et al 2017). Used as L2 by Saafi-Saafi [[sav](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Latin script.

Soninke [[snk](#)] *Users*: 340,000 in Senegal (2017), increasing. *Status*: Recognized language (2001, Constitution, Article 1). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Bamanankan [[bam](#)]. Also use Pulaar [[fuc](#)]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,251,700.

6b (Threatened)

Badyara [[pbp](#)] *Users*: 2,540 in Senegal (2017). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use Wolof [[wol](#)], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Mandinka [[mnk](#)]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,510.

Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [[bcz](#)] *Users*: 30,000 (2013). *Lg Use*: All also use Mandinka [[mnk](#)]. Many also use French [[fra](#)], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Some

also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2003. *Writing*: Latin script.

Bainouk-Samik [bcb] *Users*: 1,850 (2006 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Some also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). *Writing*: Latin script.

Balanta-Ganja [bjt] *Users*: 116,000 (2017). *Status*: Recognized language (2005, Decree No. 979 of 21 October). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Most also use Mandinka [mnk]. Some also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. A few also use French [fra], particularly those who have attended school. Also use Mandjak [mfv]. Also use Mankanya [knf]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Latin script.

Bandial [bjj] *Users*: 15,700 (2017). *Lg Use*: Home, village. Some young people, all adults. Bandial is still transmitted to children in villages, but its transmission to new generations outside the traditional rural area has fallen drastically (Sagna 2008). Mixed attitudes. Some also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Some also use Jola-Kasa [csk]. Also use French [fra], with many youth shifting (Sagna 2008). Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Also use Wolof [wol], with many youth shifting (Sagna 2008). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Grammar. NT: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script.

Bayot [bda] *Users*: 24,200 in Senegal (2020). *Status*: Recognized language (2011, Codification). *Lg Use*: L1 by all generations in the Nyassia municipality. Adults who have moved away speak it when possible but their children tend to speak Wolof [wol]. Close contact with the Nyassia area (2021 SIL). Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Many also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo], mostly adults who live in the Nyassia area. Many also use Wolof [wol], mostly the younger generation and also those who have moved away from the language area. Also use French [fra], used by educated people in official and public situations. Also use Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. Bible portions: 2013. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,200.

Casamance Creole [pov] *Users*: 30,000 in Senegal, all users. L1 users: 10,000 in Senegal (Biagui and Quint 2013), decreasing. A significant population (2,500) speaks Casamance Creole in Dakar (Biagui and Quint 2013). L2 users: 20,000 (Biagui and Quint 2013). *Lg Use*: The existence of a context in the Casamance, that is supportive of L2 to L1 transition, is highly unlikely. Most also use French [fra]. Casamance Creole speakers tend to be the more educated segment of the population. Most also use Wolof [wol]. Wolof [wol] now has more L2 speakers than any other language in the Casamance region. Used as L2 by Bandial [bjj], Bayot [bda], Jola-Fonyi [dyo], Jola-Kasa [csk], Mandinka [mnk], Mankanya [knf]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,892,300 (as L1: 344,300; as L2: 1,548,000).

Ejamat [eja] *Users*: 2,230 in Senegal (2006 SIL). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and

Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Jola-Kasa [csk]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,430.

Mlomp [mlo] *Users*: 7,500 (2017). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Also use Mandinka [mnk]. Also use Pulaar [fuc]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Wamey [cou] *Users*: 25,400 in Senegal (2017), decreasing. *Lg Use*: Mixed attitudes, from positive among older people to more neutral among the young. Most also use Pulaar [fuc]. Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication (Sarr and Thiaw 2012). Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government (Diouf et al 2017). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2018. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 50,200.

Xasonga [kao] *Users*: 12,100 in Senegal (2017). *Lg Use*: Many also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Some also use French [fra], as the language of education and government. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 714,600.

8b (Nearly extinct)

Kobiana [kcj] *Users*: 500 in Senegal (2017). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Mandjak [mfv] (Dimmendaal and Voeltz 2007). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,000.

9 (Second language only)

N'Ko [nqo] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Senegal. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Writing*: N'Ko script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known.

Unestablished

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users*: 88,300 in Senegal (2017). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Kabuverdianu [kea] *Users*: 39,000 in Senegal (2015 Instituto de Apoio ao Emigrante). *Lg Use*: Most also use French [fra]. Most also use Wolof [wol]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,195,500 (as L1: 1,181,500; as L2: 14,000).

Krio [kri] *Users*: 7,380 in Senegal (2017). *Lg Use*: Most also use Wolof [wol], as the language of commerce and interethnic communication. Many also use French [fra], as the language of education and government. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,242,250 (as L1: 821,430; as L2: 7,420,820).

Moore [[mos](#)] *Users:* 44,800 in Senegal (2017). *Writing:* Braille script, developed in 2010. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,861,900.

Papel [[pbo](#)] *Users:* 7,500 in Senegal (2017). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 156,000.

Susu [[sus](#)] *Users:* 44,800 in Senegal (2017). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,433,480.

Languages by Region

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Senegal. Under the name of each region is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

Dakar

- Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz], 11
- Pular [fuf], 22
- Saafi-Saafi [sav], 23

Diourbel

- Serer-Sine [srr], 23

Fatick

- Serer-Sine [srr], 23

Kaffrine

- Serer-Sine [srr], 23

Kaolack

- Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz], 11
- Serer-Sine [srr], 23

Kédougou

- Jalunga [yal], 15
- Maninkakan, Western [mlq], 19
- Ménik [tnr], 19
- Oniyan [bsc], 21
- Wamey [cou], 24

Kolda

- Badyara [pbp], 11
- Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz], 11
- Mandinka [mnk], 18
- Maninkakan, Western [mlq], 19
- Soninke [snk], 23

Matam

- Hassaniyya [mey], 15
- Soninke [snk], 23

Saint-Louis

- Hassaniyya [mey], 15
- Serer-Sine [srr], 23

Sédhiou

- Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz], 11
- Balanta-Ganja [bjt], 12

Jola-Fonyi [dyo], 15

Mandinka [mnk], 18

Mandjak [mfv], 18

Mankanya [knf], 19

Pular [fuf], 22

Tambacounda

Badyara [pbp], 11

Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz], 11

Bambara [bam], 12

Laalaa [cae], 17

Maninkakan, Western [mlq], 19

Oniyan [bsc], 21

Soninke [snk], 23

Wamey [cou], 24

Xasonga [kao], 25

Thiès

Laalaa [cae], 17

Ndut [ndv], 20

Noon [snf], 21

Paloor [fap], 21

Saafi-Saafi [sav], 23

Serer-Sine [srr], 23

Ziguinchor

Bainouk-Gunyaamolo [bcz], 11

Bainouk-Samik [bcb], 11

Bandial [bjj], 12

Bayot [bda], 13

Casamance Creole [pov], 13

Ejamat [eja], 14

Gusilay [gsl], 15

Jola-Fonyi [dyo], 15

Jola-Kasa [csk], 16

Karon [krx], 16

Kerak [hhr], 17

Kobiana [kcj], 17

Kuwaataay [cwt], [17](#)

Mandinka [mnk], [18](#)

Mandjak [mfv], [18](#)

Mankanya [knf], [19](#)

Mlomp [mlo], [20](#)

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Senegal. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic

Hassaniyya [mey], [15](#)

Creole, Portuguese based

Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov], [13](#)

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This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

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